IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A method of coating and binding an oral or dermal medicinal composition, comprising applying a thermoplastic coating and binding agent in a hot-melt liquid state at a temperature 100-150°C to said oral or dermal medicinal composition, followed by cooling to solidify the thermoplastic coating and binding agent, wherein said thermoplastic coating and binding agent consisting essentially of a non-homogeneous mixture of, based on 100% by weight of A and B:

A) 5-95% of a thermoplastic acrylic plastic with a melting temperature above room temperature and below 200°C, a glass transition temperature below 120°C, and a melt viscosity of 1,000 to 1,000,000 Pa-sec at the melting temperature; and

B) 95-5 wt.% of a flow improver, which, at room temperature, is not compatible with the thermoplastic acrylic plastic, has a melting temperature above room temperature but below 200°C, a weight average molecular weight under 20,000 d. and a melt viscosity below 100 Pa·sec at the melting temperature of the acrylic plastic.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of alkyl esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid and functional comonomers with covalently bound cationic groups.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of 5 to 99 wt% alkyl esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid and 95 to 1 wt% aminoalkyl esters or aminoalkylamides of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid or their salts or quaternary ammonium compounds thereof.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 1, wherein flow improver B is a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di-, or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 3, wherein flow improver B is a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di-, or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 5, wherein flow improver B is a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di-, or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 7, wherein flow improver B is a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, an ester of of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, a sugar, an ester thereof, a fatty acid mono-, di-, or triglyceride, a polyethylene glycol, a fatty acid ester or fatty alcohol ether thereof, a wax, or mixtures of any of the above.

Claims 16-24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by a method of applying a thermoplastic coating and binding agent in a hot-melt liquid state at a temperature of 100-150°C to said oral or dermal medicinal composition, followed by cooling to solidify the thermoplastic coating and binding agent, wherein said thermoplastic coating and binding agent consists essentially of a mixture of, based on 100% by weight of A and B:

A) a thermoplastic acrylic plastic with a melting temperature above room temperature and below 200°C, a glass transition temperature below 120°C, and a melt viscosity of 1,000 to 1,000,000 Pa-sec at the melting temperature; and

B) 20-50 wt.% of glycerol monostearate, wherein the glass transition temperature of the mixture is no more than 20°K below the glass transition temperature of component A.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 25, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 25, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of alkyl esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid and functional comonomers with covalently bound cationic groups.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 25, wherein the thermoplastic acrylic plastic A is a copolymer of 5 to 99 wt% alkyl esters of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid and 95 to 1 wt% aminoalkyl esters or aminoalkylamides of acrylic and/or methacrylic acid or their salts or quaternary ammonium compounds thereof.

Claim 29 (New): The composition according to Claim 25, wherein the glycerol monostearate is present in an amount of 33.3-50 wt.%, based on 100% by weight of A and B.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 29 has been added, to recite a higher lower limit for the percentage amount of glycerol monostearate (component B), as supported in the specification at Example 1

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 25-29 are now active in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 stand withdrawn from consideration.